

REMARKS

This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 have been amended to address the formal matters raised in the outstanding Official Action.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 did recite positive recitations for X and E. X and E may be O-R₃ when R₆ is different from phenyl. This is consistent with the definition provided for R₆ in claim 1. Nevertheless, the claims have been amended to further clarify this issue. As the claims merely correct a formal matter and do not affect the scope of the claims, applicants believe that the changes to the claims are non-narrowing.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by PONTIROLI et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 has been amended to delete the OH group from the definition provided in E. Accordingly, PONTIROLI fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by PONTIROLI et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the changes to claim 3, applicants believe that this rejection has also been obviated.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by OJIMA et al. WO 94/22856 or rendered obvious in view of OJIMA et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,705,508. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the OJIMA publication actually disclose compounds wherein the A ring contains only one double bond and which are not enol ethers. Accordingly, the compounds do disclose the compounds recited in claim 6. Furthermore, the compounds of claim 6 cannot have been obtained by deprotection of the compounds disclosed in OJIMA. Thus, applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

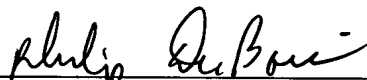
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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